

<b>DEPARTMENTAL REGULATION</b>		Number: 1042-126
SUBJECT: National Drought Policy Commission	DATE: August 7, 2000	
	OPI: Farm Service Agency	

1 PURPOSE

This regulation reestablishes the "Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality." It is being reestablished consistent with Section 391 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act which directs the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to establish a task force to address agricultural air quality issues. The Chief of NRCS is responsible for preparing the following charter under Section 9(c) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), amended December 21, 1982.

2 BACKGROUND

In Section 391 of the FAIR Act of 1996 Congress found that:

a A number of studies have alleged that agriculture is a source of PM-10 emissions.

b Many of the studies have often been based on erroneous data.

c Federal research activities are currently being conducted by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to determine the true extent to which agricultural activities contribute to air pollution and to determine cost-effective ways in which the agricultural industry can reduce air pollution.

d Any policy recommendations, that may be issued by any Federal agency to address air pollution problems related to agriculture or any other industrial activity, should be based on sound scientific findings that are subject to adequate peer review and should take into account economic feasibility.

The Task Force is established to provide recommendations to the Secretary on the resolution of agricultural air quality issues, to ensure intergovernmental cooperation in research activities, and to help ensure that scientific defensible data is used in decision-making.

### 3 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/CANCELLATIONS

a The name of this committee is the Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality.

b The Task Force will be terminated 2 years from the date of reestablishment by the Chief of NRCS unless renewed.

c This regulation will expire 2 years from the date of filing. Departmental Regulation 1042-126, dated August 7, 1998, is superseded by the regulation.

### 4 OFFICERS AND MEMBERSHIP

a The Chief of NRCS will serve as chair of the Task Force. The Task Force will report to the Chief of NRCS, who will present Task Force recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture.

b Equal opportunity practices, consistent with USDA policies, will be followed in all Task Force appointments. To ensure that Task Force recommendations have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women and persons with disabilities.

### 5 DUTIES

The Task Force shall advise the Secretary of Agriculture regarding:

a Efforts needed to strengthen research, including the identification of researchable issues and technologies which are of broad regional and national

importance, as it relates to agricultural air quality issues.

b The extent to which agricultural activities contribute to air pollution.

c Cost-effective ways in which the agricultural industry can reduce its impact on air quality.

d Coordinated research on agricultural air quality issues to avoid duplication of efforts; and

e The scientific basis and economic practicability for proposed air quality policies/regulations as related to agriculture.

## 6 ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

a Members shall serve without compensation, but may receive reimbursement for travel expenses and per diem in accordance with USDA travel regulations for attendance at board functions.

b Estimated annual operating cost of the Task Force is not expected to exceed \$50,000 and 0.25 staff years of support.

## 7 NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The Task Force is estimated to meet quarterly.

## 8 STAFF SUPPORT

NRCS will provide the necessary support for the Task Force and designate a federal official to provide committee management as outlined in Department Regulation 1041-1, and required under Sections 10(e) and 10(f) of FACA (5 U.S.C. App.).

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